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# The Iowa Regiments

Mildred Throne

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# THE PALIMPSEST

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## The Iowa Regiments

How many Iowans served in the Union Army during the Civil War? The answer is not simple, because no two authorities agree as to the exact number. Totals from 72,000 to 76,000 can be found in various state records. Since the male population of Iowa in 1860 between the ages of fifteen and forty was 143,528, the total enlistment, whether 72,000 or 76,000, was almost half the men of the usual age for military service.

Of these 70,000-odd men who left Iowa for the battlefields, 13,001 died: 3,540 either killed or mortally wounded; 8,498 of disease; 515 as prisoners; 227 from accident; and 221 of various non-battle causes. In addition, some 8,500 were wounded in action. Seventeen per cent died of wounds or disease; in all, 30 per cent of the Iowans either were killed or wounded during the four years of war. Such was the price one state paid for the preservation of the Union.

Iowa provided forty-six infantry regiments, plus one colored regiment (not all Iowans), four



companies of light artillery, and nine cavalry regiments for the Union Army. Two regiments, the 42nd and 43rd, were designated but never organized, so that the last Iowa regiment mustered was the 48th. The First Iowa Infantry, mustered in May, 1861, was a three-month regiment; the 44th through the 48th, mustered in 1864, were 100-day regiments; the rest were three-year enlistments, with many of the men re-enlisting as "veterans." Most of these regiments saw action in some of the most important battles and campaigns of the war.

The regiments, as they organized at the beginning of the war, usually elected their own officers. Each regiment consisted of 10 companies, lettered "A" through "K" (omitting "J"), with roughly 100 men per company. Although most of the men were completely untrained in the arts of war, some few learned fast and rose rapidly in rank. In fact, six men who enlisted as privates left the service as majors; one corporal became a major, and three others became lieutenant colonels; thirteen sergeants became majors or lieutenant colonels.

Of the staff officers of the Iowa regiments, three rose to be major generals; sixteen became brigadier generals, of whom six were brevetted major generals; and twenty-eight colonels were brevetted brigadiers. Frederick Steele, who became a major general, was not an Iowan but an officer in the regular army who served for four months as colonel of the 8th Iowa.



*Name*                      *Residence*                      *Mustered in as: Regiment*

## MAJOR GENERALS

Samuel Ryan Curtis	Keokuk	Colonel	2nd Inf.
Grenville M. Dodge	Council Bluffs	Colonel	4th Inf.
Francis J. Herron	Dubuque	Lt. Col.	9th Inf.

## BREVET MAJOR GENERALS

John M. Corse	Burlington	Major	6th Inf.
James I. Gilbert	Lansing	Colonel	27th Inf.
Edward Hatch	Muscatine	Captain	2nd Cav.
William Vandever	Dubuque	Colonel	9th Inf.
Fitz Henry Warren	Burlington	Colonel	1st Cav.
James A. Williamson	Des Moines	Adjutant	4th Inf.

## BRIGADIER GENERALS

William W. Belknap	Keokuk	Major	15th Inf.
Cyrus Bussey	Bloomfield	Colonel	3rd Cav.
Marcellus M. Crocker	Des Moines	Major	2nd Inf.
John Edwards	Chariton	Colonel	18th Inf.
Jacob G. Lauman	Burlington	Colonel	7th Inf.
Charles L. Matthies	Burlington	Lt. Col.	5th Inf.
Hugh T. Reid	Keokuk	Colonel	15th Inf.
Elliott E. Rice	Oskaloosa	Major	7th Inf.
Samuel A. Rice	Oskaloosa	Colonel	33rd Inf.
James M. Tuttle	Keosauqua	Lt. Col.	2nd Inf.

## BREVET BRIGADIER GENERALS

Thomas H. Benton	Council Bluffs	Colonel	29th Inf.
John Bruce	Keokuk	Captain	19th Inf.
George W. Clark	Indianola	Colonel	34th Inf.
Datus E. Coon	Mason City	Captain	2nd Cav.
Francis M. Drake	Unionville	Lt. Col.	36th Inf.
William McE. Dye	Marion	Colonel	20th Inf.
James L. Geddes	Vinton	Lt. Col.	8th Inf.
Samuel L. Glasgow	Corydon	Major	23rd Inf.



<i>Name</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Mustered in as: Regiment</i>	
Harvey Graham	Iowa City	Major	22nd Inf.
Herman H. Heath	Dubuque	Captain	1st Cav.
John M. Hedrick	Ottumwa	1st Lt.	15th Inf.
David B. Hillis	Keokuk	Lt. Col.	17th Inf.
Joseph B. Leake	Davenport	Captain	20th Inf.
John W. Noble	Keokuk	Adjutant	3rd Cav.
George M. O'Brien	Dubuque	Major	7th Cav.
James C. Parrott	Keokuk	Captain	7th Inf.
Samuel M. Pollock	Dubuque	Lt. Col.	6th Cav.
Addison H. Sanders	Davenport	Lt. Col.	16th Inf.
John H. Stibbs	Cedar Rapids	Captain	12th Inf.
George A. Stone	Mount Pleasant	Major	4th Cav.
William M. Stone	Knoxville	Captain	3rd Inf.
William Thompson	Mount Pleasant	Captain	1st Cav.
Matthew M. Trumbull	Clarksville	Captain	3rd Inf.
James B. Weaver	Bloomfield	1st Lt.	2nd Inf.
Clark R. Wever	Burlington	Captain	17th Inf.
James Wilson	Newton	1st Lt.	13th Inf.
Edward F. Winslow	Mount Pleasant	Captain	4th Cav.
Ed Wright	Springdale	Major	24th Inf.

The Iowa regiments fought in all the great and small battles in the West. Only the highlights of their war experiences can be told here.

While they marched and fought, they kept diaries, they wrote long letters home, they even wrote letters to their local newspapers. From these diaries and letters, and from the books written by some of them after the war, as well as from the published records of the government, the experiences of each regiment can be traced.